

On Nonparametric Methods for Estimating the Hazard Function with Application

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Abstract When a parametric form for the underlying distribution is not available, the estimation of hazard quantile is of major interest. Furthermore, the hazard quantile function can be employed instead of the hazard function. This work describes a new nonparametric hazard quantile function estimator based on TL-moments approaches in detail.

Keywords Quantile, Hazard, Hazard quantile, TL-moments

1. Introduction

The statistical analysis of time-to-event data shows a main role in many of various application areas such as, industrial (reliability testing), medical (survival analysis), and demographic (migration analysis, life events research). The hazard rate is used greatly as a methodological tool in these types of usages to define the instantaneous risk of observing the event of interest over time.

The L-moments and TL-moments have an appealing property that the system of moments does not have; see Hosking (1990). L-moments of any order k , for example, exist. The entire sequence of L-moments is available for heavy-tailed distributions under only a finite first moment assumption. The weaker assumption of L-moments is used to describe TL-moments, which does not require a finite first moment assumption.

The estimation of the hazard function is crucial in many statistical applications, especially in the data-analytic and functional statistical methods advocated by Nair and Sanakaran 2009.

2. Quantile Function in Term of TL-Moments

In statistical analysis, the quantile function method is a valuable tool.

The method of moments is widely used to measure descriptive features of a univariate distribution, but its application is limited to sufficiently light-tailed distributions; see Bera and Biliyas 2002. The sequence of L-moments and

TL-moments, which take the form of expectations of selected linear functions of order statistics, offer an appealing alternative.

Q is defined as:

$$Q_x(u) = F^{-1}(u) = \{x: F(x) \geq u\}, u \in [0,1] \quad (1)$$

$F = F(x)$ is the population cdf. If F is an absolutely continuous with density $f = f(x)$ and is one-to-one Q is differentiable on the open unit interval, $(0,1)$

And $q(u) = Q'(u)$, $u \in [0,1]$

is called the quantile density function (qdf). In this case

$F(Q(u)) = u$. Differentiation on both sides give $q(u) f(Q(u)) \equiv 1$

the function $fQ(u) = f(Q(u))$

is called the density quantile function; see Parzen (1979), Cheng and Parzen (1997) and Cheng (2002). Thus, the density quantile function is another related quantity which obtained from the pdf, $f(x)$, by substituting for x with the quantile function, as see Parzen (1979).

$$f_u(u) = f(Q(u)) \quad (2)$$

As $x = Q(u)$

and $u = F(u)$ for any pair of values (x, u) , it follows from the definition of differentiation that

$$\frac{dx/du}{du/dx} = 1, \text{ so } \frac{dQ(u)/du}{dF(x)/dx} = 1$$

Hence $q(u) f(x) = 1$ and, therefore, expressing all in terms of u , $q(u) f_{u(u)=1}$

The two functions $q(u)$ and $f_{u(u)}$

are thus reciprocals of each other. Thus, the density-quantile function can be defined in terms of quantile density function as

$$f(Q(u)) = \frac{1}{q(u)}$$

Otherwise, the quantile density function can be defined in terms of density quantile function as:

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$$q(u) = \frac{1}{f(Q(u))} \quad (3) \quad \text{Hosking (2007), derived the TL-moments as the coefficients in the expansion of the quantile function in the form of a weighted sum of shifted Jacobi polynomials as}$$

3. Representation of Density Quantile Function in Terms of TL-Moments

$$Q(u) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1)}{r+t_1+t_2+1} \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1,t_2)} p_r^{(t_1,t_2)}(u) \quad 0 \leq u \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

where $p_r^{(t_1,t_2)}$ is shifted Jacobi polynomials which is given by

$$p_r^{(t_1,t_2)}(u) = \sum_{j=0}^r (-1)^{r-j} \binom{r+t_1}{r-j} \binom{r+t_2}{j} u^j (1-u)^{r-j} \quad (5)$$

and,

$$\lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1,t_2)} = \frac{r!(r+t_1+t_2+1)!}{(r+1)(r+t_1)!(r+t_2)!} \int_0^1 [Q(u)u^{t_1}(1-u)^{t_2} p_r^{(t_1,t_2)}(u)] du \quad (6)$$

This is convergent in the weighted mean square with weight function $u^{t_1}(1-u)^{t_2}$, i.e.

$$MSE = Q(u) - \sum_{r=0}^s c_r p_r^{(t_1,t_2)}(u) \quad (7)$$

the remainder after stopping the sum, after s terms, satisfies

$$\int_0^1 u^{t_1}(1-u)^{t_2} e_s^2(u) du \rightarrow 0$$

It also represents of density function in terms of TL moments by the following theorem

Let X be a continuous real-valued variable such that its trimmed mean is finite, quantile function.

$Q(u) = X(F) = F(x)^{-1}$, density function $f(x)$

And Quantile density function $qu = Q(u)$

and trimmed L - moments $\lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1,t_2)}$ $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ than the

Representation

$$q(u) = Q'(u) = \frac{1}{f(x)} = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (r+1) (2r+t_1+t_2+1) \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1,t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1,t_2)}(u) \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, \quad (8)$$

This is convergent in the weighted mean square with weight function $u^{t_1}(1-u)^{t_2}$. This imply that

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (r+1) (2r+t_1+t_2+1) \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1,t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1,t_2)}(u)} \quad (9)$$

4. Hazard Quantile in Term of TL- Moments

Nair and Sankaran introduced hazard quantile function as

$$H(u) = \frac{f(\hat{u})}{1 - F(\hat{u})} = \frac{1}{(1-u) q(u)}$$

Where $q(u)$ is the quantile density function defined by

$$q(u) = \frac{d(\hat{u})}{du}$$

From equation (8) and (9)

$$h(\mu) = \frac{(\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1) \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1,t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1+1,t_2+1)}(\mu))^{-1}}{I-1} \quad (10)$$

This is convergent in the weighted mean square with weight function $u^{t_1} (1-u)^{t_2}$, i.e.

$$MSE = h(u) - \sum_{r=0}^s c_r p_r^{(t_1, t_2)}(u) \quad (11)$$

proof:

let

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2)}{(r+t_1+t_2+1)} \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1+t_2)} p_r^{(t_1+t_2)}(\mu) \\ x \left[\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2)}{(r+t_1+t_2+1)} \right]^{-1} \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1+t_2)} &= p_r^{(t_1+t_2)}(\mu) \\ x \left[\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2)}{(r+t_1+t_2+1)} \right]^{-1} \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1+t_2)} &= \sum_{j=0}^r (-1)^{r-j} \binom{r+t_1}{r-j} \binom{r+t_2}{j} u^j (1-u)^{r-j} \\ Q^{-1}(x) = F(u) = u &= \left(x \left[\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2)}{(r+t_1+t_2+1)} \right]^{-1} \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1+t_2)} \right) \left(\sum_{j=0}^r (-1)^{r-j} \binom{r+t_1}{r-j} \binom{r+t_2}{j} \right) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

5. Estimation of the Hazard Quantile Function

From a random sample x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n of size n from the population where its corresponding order statistics is $x_{1:n} < x_{2:n} < \dots < x_{n:n}$ by replacing the population TL-moments $\lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)}$ by its sample version sample TL-moments $\iota_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)}$

From (4) we can estimate the quantile function as

$$Q(u; s, t_1, t_2) = \sum_{r=0}^{s \leq n} \frac{(r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1)}{r+t_1+t_2+1} \iota_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)} p_r^{(t_1, t_2)}(u) \quad (12)$$

While, from (8) we can estimate the quantile density function

$$\hat{q}(\mu; s, t_1, t_2) = \sum_{r=1}^{s \leq n} (r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1) \iota_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1+t_2+1)}(\mu) \quad (13)$$

Thus, from (10) the hazard quantile function can be estimated as

$$\hat{h}(\mu) = \frac{(\sum_{r=1}^{s \leq n} (r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1) \iota_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1+t_2+1)}(\mu))^{-1}}{I-1} \quad (14)$$

6. Optimal Trimming Depends on the Hazard Quantile Function

There is method for obtaining optimal trimming depends on the hazard quantile function.

The error between the hazard quantile function and its TL- moments representation, in (14) can be written as

$$MSE = h(u) - \frac{(\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1) \lambda_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1+t_2+1)}(\mu))^{-1}}{I-1} \quad (15)$$

The optimal values of t_1 and t_2 can be chosen as the values which have less sum of the absolute error $\text{Min } |MSE|$
Where

$$MSE = h(u) - \frac{(\sum_{r=1}^{s \leq n} (r+1)(2r+t_1+t_2+1) \iota_{r+1}^{(t_1, t_2)} p_{r-1}^{(t_1+t_2+1)}(\mu))^{-1}}{I-1} \quad (16)$$

7. Application

We study the approximation of hazard quantile, $h(u)$, based on TL-moments in this section, using some known distributions and real data. Using the formulas (16) and (15) that meet the two requirements in (10) and respectively (11) for different values of trimming (t_1, t_2) and terms (r) , we compute the sum absolute error $\sum |MSE|$ which is given in (16).

As the basis of our comparisons, we simulate 50,100, and150 observations from log normal and normal distributions. We take the hazard quantile which have $Min \sum |MSE|$ and, in the same time, best fitting to distribution. In addition, we will compare this new approximation of the hazard quantile with the corresponding histogram and kernel density.

7.1. Lognormal Distribution

$X \sim \text{log normal}(\mu, \sigma)$ is used to indicate that the random variable x has the log normal distribution with parameters μ and σ . A log normal random variable x with parameters μ and σ has probability density function

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma x \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\ln x - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right] \quad h(x) = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma x \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\ln x - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2}}{1 - \Phi \left[\frac{\ln x - \mu}{\sigma} \right]}$$

Table 1. Simulated data from lognormal distribution with $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$ using $n = 50, 100, 150$

n = 50									
0.6978	0.3561	1.6492	2.1321	2.9138	2.0688	0.7423	1.6253	1.2674	0.6739
1.1386	0.3050	1.9778	0.0636	0.1226	3.2710	1.7299	1.2893	0.3405	2.0813
0.6581	3.1878	0.2369	1.2445	2.4645	0.2022	0.5653	1.9540	1.3183	0.5255
0.8476	0.7812	1.7431	0.7270	0.9385	4.1479	3.5934	1.2887	0.4437	0.3009
4.1392	2.7541	0.9024	0.9782	1.3623	0.2564	0.8016	1.0582	1.4387	3.5624

n = 100									
1.0312	0.2247	1.0562	0.3527	1.0421	3.7704	1.0259	1.2639	0.9304	1.3992
0.3662	1.3756	2.6620	0.2515	0.3049	0.5513	2.7164	0.2440	3.3413	1.2722
0.8826	1.7606	0.7564	0.1916	1.1711	0.5857	0.9304	1.9529	2.1415	4.0937
0.6182	0.4584	5.5571	2.5134	0.1830	1.0347	4.7719	3.4524	1.2128	0.7366
1.7989	1.6742	2.6087	3.9483	0.4150	1.6448	1.2152	2.1850	2.0337	0.7836
0.9974	3.3901	1.6453	0.8387	1.6835	0.3696	0.6964	1.4044	3.1307	0.9015
1.0459	0.2281	0.3702	0.5534	4.0640	0.4818	0.2686	2.2855	1.8066	0.7389
1.0169	0.0786	1.9241	0.8432	0.3090	0.7296	0.4409	2.5694	1.4543	1.5305
0.0412	1.6607	0.8161	0.4032	0.4655	0.7528	0.3073	0.2337	3.8096	2.2384
0.6459	0.4297	1.1491	1.0967	1.2808	1.8294	1.9133	0.5822	0.6907	0.5884

n = 150									
4.6284	0.3037	1.2962	0.1833	5.6640	0.3524	0.3999	0.2534	0.7213	2.7740
4.5578	0.5273	0.1862	0.4781	2.1697	0.8904	0.7366	0.1927	1.0709	0.8500
4.7539	0.6746	1.0599	1.3987	3.8178	0.4238	0.1321	1.0952	2.5771	0.0724
0.6952	0.6064	1.1429	0.5891	0.4006	3.6066	2.6978	0.5265	3.0530	0.7780
1.0847	0.8423	0.4360	1.9565	2.3671	3.4544	1.1675	0.3403	0.3336	0.7400
2.9273	1.2579	4.3961	0.4986	3.5191	0.5974	0.2317	1.5189	1.7456	0.4218
4.2104	0.0985	0.9085	1.1846	0.5035	0.3701	0.7873	1.3047	0.2905	0.5431
0.5403	0.2663	0.2405	1.9768	2.1434	2.1896	0.2766	0.9625	0.7123	1.5482
0.3416	0.6198	0.6244	1.2945	1.2297	2.2749	0.6468	0.6944	0.8292	0.9332
3.0210	0.2153	0.4231	1.4412	3.2425	0.5383	1.9750	0.9241	1.6519	0.4201
1.2472	0.7547	0.4073	0.6838	0.8891	0.3311	2.0100	1.2729	4.9927	0.6405
2.2604	1.3278	2.0338	2.8155	1.5740	0.5454	0.7609	6.5621	5.9319	1.2585
0.3071	0.3859	2.0078	1.2066	0.6916	0.1757	1.1792	0.6555	1.1632	0.4864
0.2765	2.4219	1.3914	1.8339	1.7020	0.9632	1.1426	1.1376	0.1935	0.3078
0.6551	5.6251	0.3789	1.2698	1.4196	0.3897	2.9872	1.3157	0.8035	1.2808

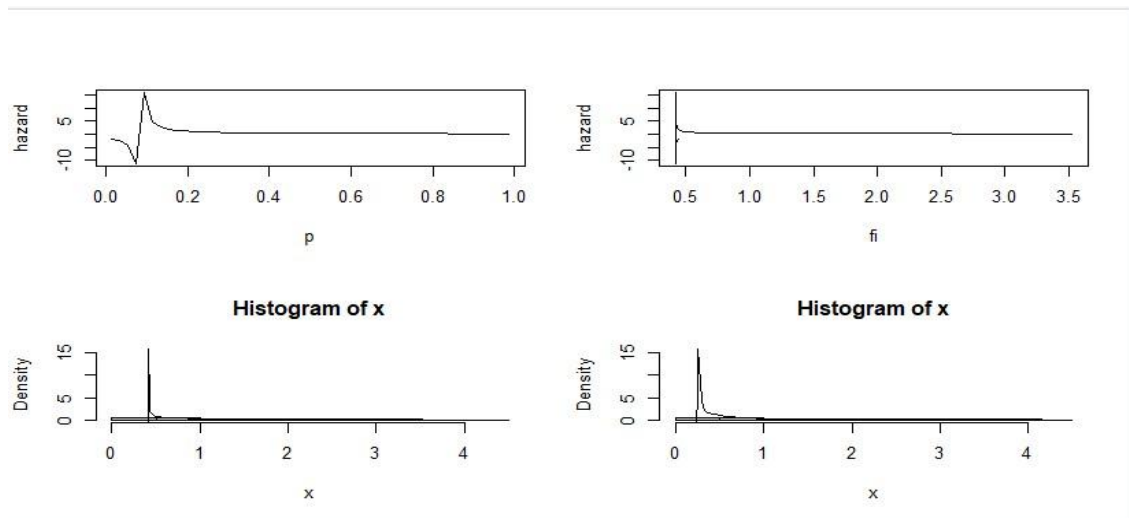


Figure 1. Approximation of the hazard and density functions of lognormal distribution ($\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$), using terms ($r=3$), trimming ($t_1=1$, $t_2=1$) and sample size $n=50$

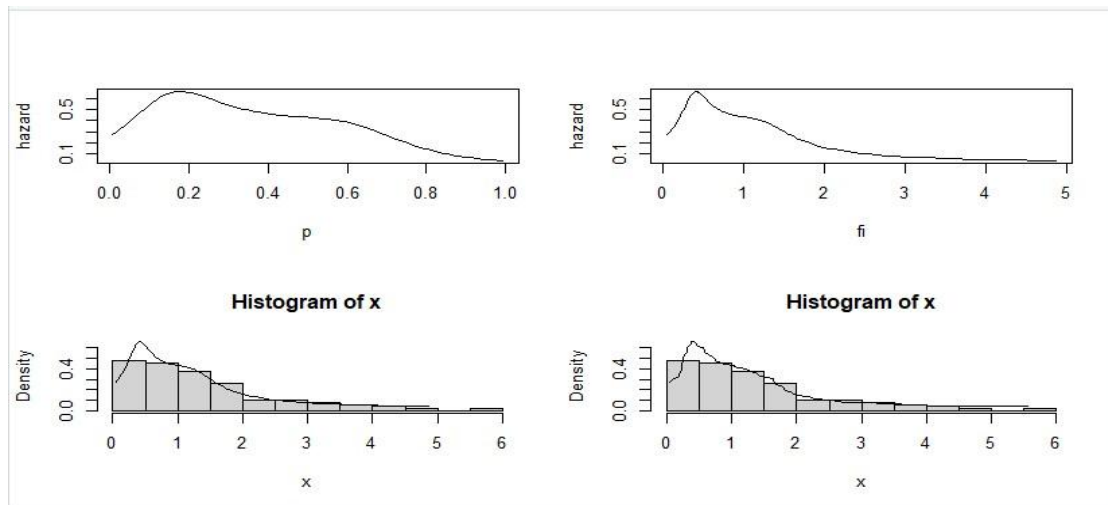


Figure 2. Approximation of the hazard and density functions of lognormal distribution ($\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$), using terms ($r=6$), trimming ($t_1=1$, $t_2=1$) and sample size $n=100$

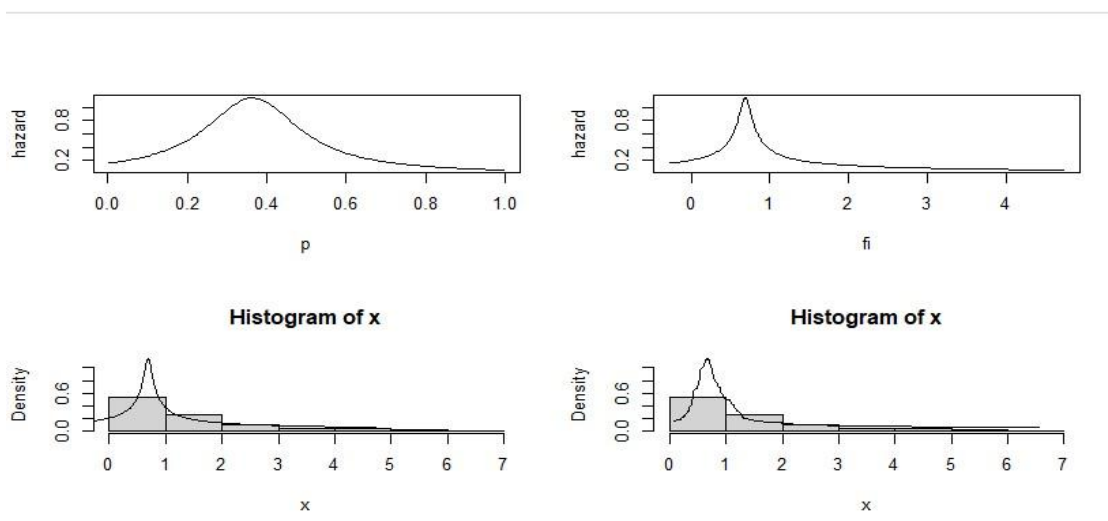


Figure 3. Approximation of the hazard and density functions of lognormal distribution ($\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$), using terms ($r=4$), trimming ($t_1=1$, $t_2=1$) and sample size $n=150$

7.2. Normal Distribution

Normal distributions are useful in statistics and are often used in the natural and social science for real valued random variables whose distributions are not known.

If X is distributed according to the normal distribution, then

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right] \quad h(x) = \frac{f(x)}{s(x)} = -\frac{e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sigma\sqrt{\pi}(\operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right) - 1)}$$

$$-\infty < x < \infty, -\infty < \mu < \infty, \sigma > 0$$

Table 2. Simulated data from normal distribution with $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$ using $n = 50, 100$ and 150

n = 50									
-1.3720	1.4198	-0.2011	-1.5651	-0.8546	0.1631	0.9670	-1.3123	-0.8745	-0.6822
-0.7275	-0.6821	-1.3637	0.5944	0.8469	-0.1177	2.0297	0.0364	0.9309	-1.1155
-0.2224	1.1541	-0.7408	-1.2104	1.0524	-0.8129	-0.3565	0.1872	1.5327	0.0156
-0.0875	-0.4401	-0.4179	-0.4088	0.3537	-0.2418	-0.8954	1.6885	0.4029	0.9609
0.8282	-0.1659	-0.0239	0.1885	-1.0899	0.9593	2.6752	-0.9098	0.1289	-1.4792

n = 100									
0.2747	0.5357	1.6042	-2.6563	-1.1324	-1.3539	1.4253	-1.029	-0.1291	1.4638
0.0694	-1.1391	0.1681	1.3003	-0.6564	0.0043	0.7904	-3.2659	0.0353	0.7526
-0.1237	0.3589	-0.1628	-1.4230	-0.3370	-1.5479	0.2299	0.1580	0.9746	0.2067
-0.8440	-0.7128	0.2398	1.1185	1.8864	1.6176	0.9613	0.3739	-1.1524	-0.9108
-1.7608	0.6106	1.8916	-1.0511	-0.9668	-0.4088	-0.1496	-0.4614	-0.7235	1.0339
0.8974	-0.4617	-0.1775	0.0362	1.1747	0.3222	-0.8823	-2.2955	-0.6815	0.6711
-2.1447	-1.5042	-1.1101	-0.1087	-1.2438	-1.7871	-1.3686	0.6686	-0.7146	-1.3730
-2.0620	0.7155	-1.9275	0.0108	-2.0794	-0.5048	-0.9360	1.1153	0.2822	-0.8867
-0.2407	1.0608	2.2900	-0.6594	-1.5575	0.7892	-0.1159	-1.4818	0.3799	-0.1361
0.7126	0.7101	0.3237	0.8790	1.1214	1.1268	-0.1802	0.5485	-0.1162	0.6522

n = 150									
-1.3211	-1.445	0.6416	1.2139	1.6287	1.6935	-0.1439	-0.9518	0.1940	0.3199
-0.2104	1.8029	-0.8631	-0.9881	0.2365	0.2616	1.0207	-0.8732	-0.5209	-0.3445
0.4741	0.3787	2.2813	0.5913	1.0332	-0.8962	0.4003	-1.2885	-1.2651	1.6998
-0.5792	1.1537	0.5019	0.3296	1.6101	-0.3200	-0.5870	-0.7162	0.3937	0.0530
-0.8855	-0.0210	-0.2258	0.7272	-1.005	2.2285	0.1277	0.9213	0.2442	-0.1834
-0.7297	0.3910	-0.1782	-0.8836	0.2685	-0.4489	0.3772	0.6614	-0.1128	-1.3116
-0.1881	-0.2786	-0.8514	-0.1042	-0.0009	-1.3837	0.2309	0.5133	-0.6033	-0.0092
-1.4614	0.3182	1.9884	-0.4111	1.2044	-0.0686	0.0670	-0.562	0.4241	-0.1185
-1.9669	-0.5662	0.1158	1.4250	0.1628	1.4754	1.0817	0.2912	0.1569	0.3407
0.0625	0.4637	-0.7025	-0.6569	-1.3228	-0.2826	2.0986	-0.7794	-0.468	1.1257
0.9825	-0.0273	-1.0344	1.0288	0.1969	1.9585	0.9674	-0.188	-0.6572	0.7719
-0.3244	-0.2009	-0.7220	0.4251	-0.2227	-0.1246	0.4228	-1.0679	-0.8435	-1.2351
0.4144	-0.9424	-0.7794	0.3455	0.5565	0.4345	-0.2811	0.2795	-0.6248	0.7547
0.2853	-1.3914	-0.7645	1.5949	-0.0773	-0.1678	-0.5444	-0.2791	0.8064	1.4322
-0.9531	0.2831	1.1077	-0.6535	-0.5040	0.8856	1.3122	-1.8128	2.0512	-0.4167

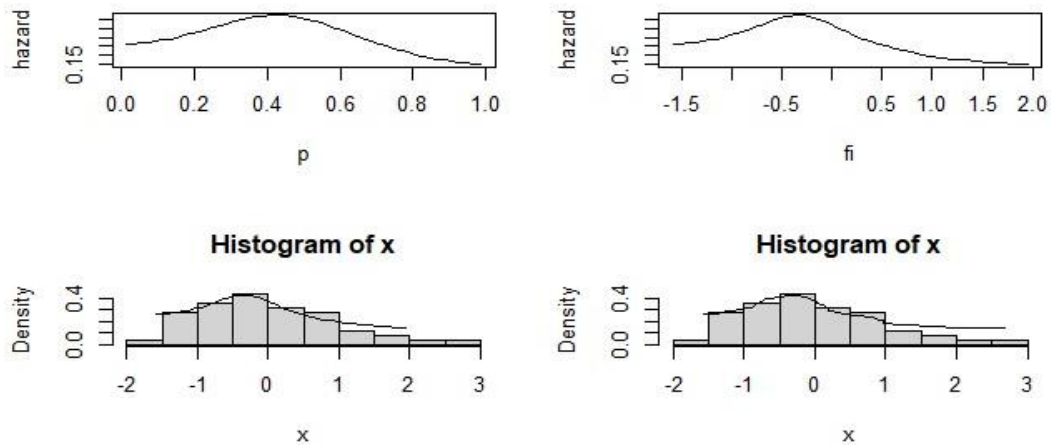


Figure 4. Approximation of the hazard and density functions of normal distribution ($\mu = 0, \sigma = 1$), using terms ($r=6$), trimming ($t_1=1, t_2=0$) and sample size $n=50$

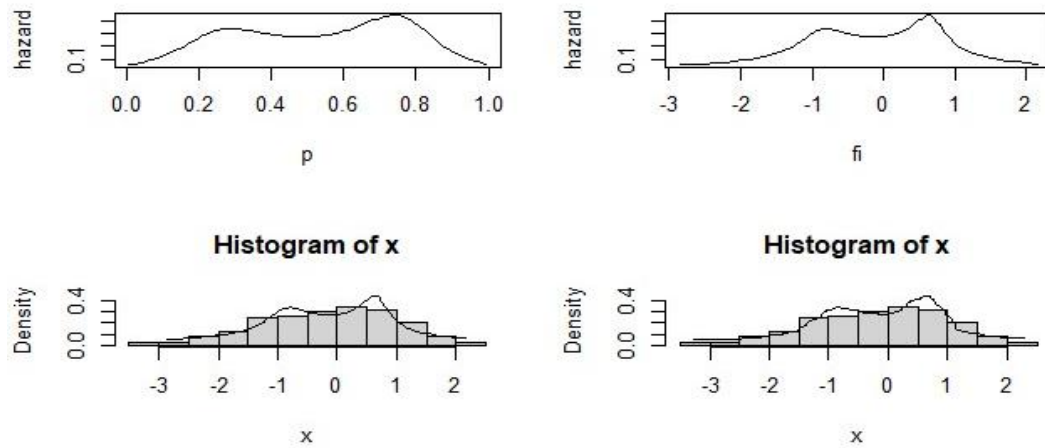


Figure 5. Approximation of the hazard and density functions of normal distribution ($\mu = 0, \sigma = 1$), using terms ($r=6$), trimming ($t_1=0, t_2=0$) and sample size $n=100$

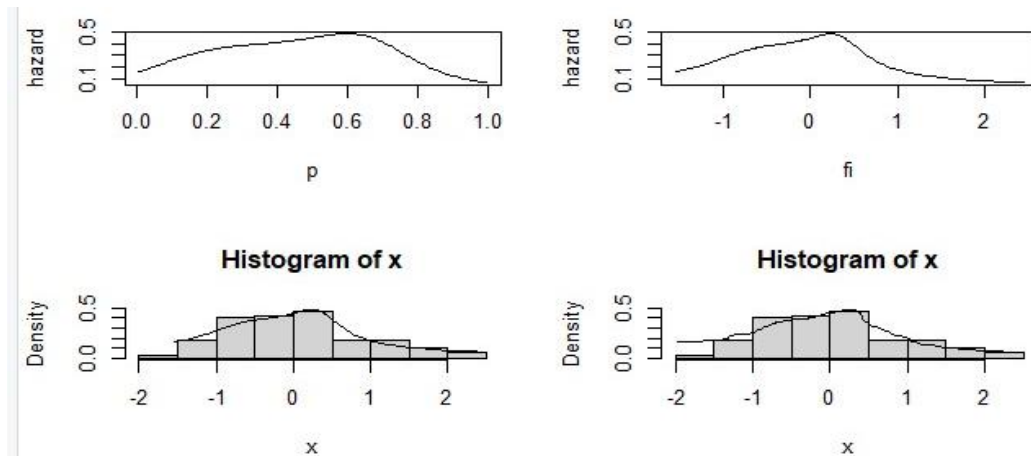


Figure 6. Approximation of the hazard and density functions of normal distribution ($\mu = 0, \sigma = 1$), using terms ($r=6$), trimming ($t_1=1, t_2=1$) and sample size $n=150$

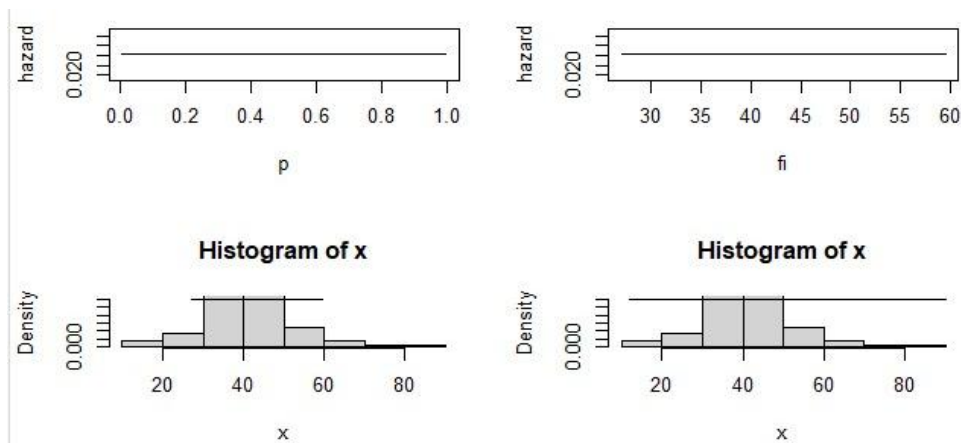
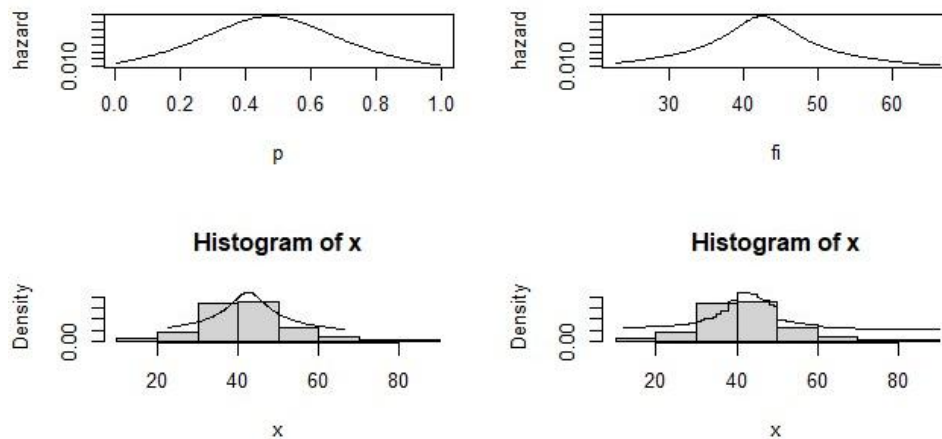
7.3. Real Data

We add an approximation to the hazard quantile function for real data using the same technique of approximation to know distributions.

Table 3 shows the ages of 155 patients with Stomach Tumors who were admitted to (Zagazig University Hospital, Pain Clinic, Egypt) between June and December 2020.

Table 3. Data of the ages for 155 patients of Stomach Tumors taken from (June-December 2020) whose entered in (Zagazig University Hospital, Pain Clinic, Egypt)

n = 155									
90	60	46	36	28	50	40	45	48	18
36	45	48	40	54	40	44	52	43	23
44	32	40	35	40	43	17	36	38	45
26	40	30	69	49	29	28	32	35	56
60	38	50	56	45	66	24	60	50	45
36	45	48	40	34	31	42	60	40	40
50	38	50	47	38	38	90	35	35	43
40	43	38	55	48	42	33	59	50	36
50	46	40	28	25	18	59	36	17	59
32	48	58	39	38	50	50	52	28	31
56	48	36	38	34	38	48	45	24	33
40	40	32	65	38	40	30	42	12	82
42	50	49	38	38	35	42	35	50	90
36	38	50	31	50	58	80	58	40	42
63	58	40	65	42	31	60	31	45	40
56	35	38	46	43					

**Figure 7.** Approximation of hazard quantile function of Stomach Tumors size $n=155$, trimming $(t_1=1, t_2=2)$ and using two terms $(r=2)$ **Figure 8.** Approximation of hazard quantile function of Stomach Tumors size $n=155$, trimming $(t_1=1, t_2=2)$ and using four terms $(r=4)$

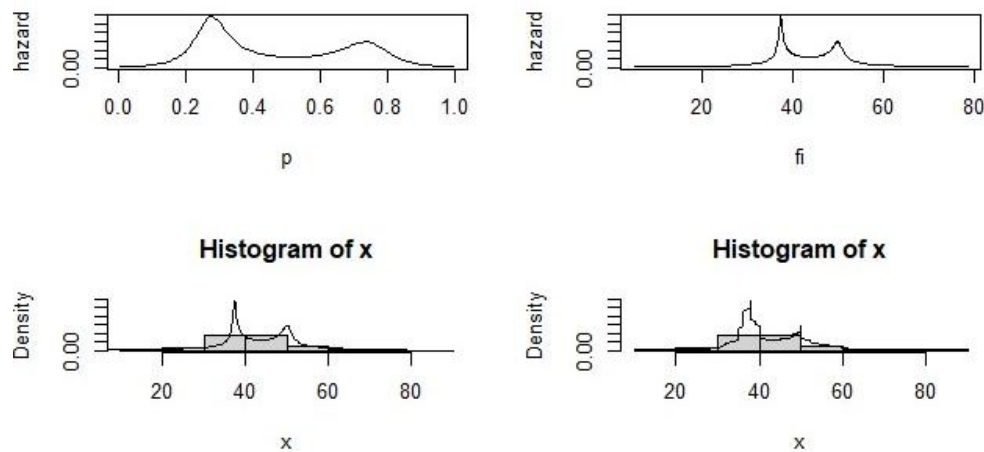


Figure 9. Approximation of hazard quantile function of Stomach Tumors size $n=155$, trimming ($t_1=1, t_2=2$) and using six terms ($r=6$)

8. Conclusions

The population hazard function (which indicated the approximation of hazard quantile function) is approximated using a nonparametric methodology based on the TL-moments and the orthogonal Jacobi polynomial as an approximation. This methodology has the capacity to acquire more information regarding the data's arbitrary distribution. This method is focused on reducing the sum absolute error between the population hazard quantile function and its portrayal in TL-moments.

Unlike its parametric counterpart, there is no need to make any assumptions about the underlying distribution. We also used symmetric and asymmetric distributions to demonstrate the benefits of the suggested technique.

The performance of the proposed estimator is tested by applications to real-life and simulated data. Also, a comparison of its performance to that of the normal estimator indicates that the lognormal estimator performs better than that of the normal estimator near the boundary.

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